

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended) - An orthopedic device, comprising, in combination:

a threaded shaft, said shaft having one terminus provided with rotational means about a single axis transverse to a long axis of said threaded shaft and means to prohibit all other rotation,

a cup having an upper end with interior threads and having a lower rotational means receiving area dimensioned to allow rotation of said threaded shaft about said one terminus and about a said single axis transverse to a said long axis of said threaded shaft and means to prohibit all other rotation,

said cup having a transverse slot,

a rod passing through said slot and abutting said rotational means in proximate tangential registry,

and bolt means threaded to said cup's interior threads to fix said rod and said threaded shaft into a fixed position relative to said cup wherein said threaded shaft has first and second thread patterns thereon wherein said threaded shaft first and second thread patterns have differing thread pitch, such that said second thread pattern has finer threads than said first thread pattern wherein said thread patterns have crests which are axially offset from their respective roots, inducing a radially inward directed force.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (currently amended) - A method for supporting a skeletal structure, the steps including:

deploying a plurality of fasteners within a plurality of support cups;
screwing the fasteners into a bone to be mended such that the bone is subjected to both axially compressive and radially inward forces relative to the fastener;
deploying a support rod within the support cups;
orienting the cups relative to the rods so the rod abuts the fasteners;
and fixing the rod and fasteners together by inducing a radially inward force on the cups.

Claim 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (currently amended) - The device of claim 5 1 wherein said first and second thread crests face each other inducing compressive force axially.

Claim 7 (previously added) - An orthopedic stabilization device, comprising, in combination:

a threaded shaft having both axial and radial bone engaging compressive threads,

said shaft having a free end terminating in a disc constrained within a cup having a recess complementary to said disc to permit relative rotation of said cup and said shaft about a geometrical center of said disc,

a rod received within said cup and a tangential registry with said disc,
and means to hold said rod, cup and disc in fixed relationship.

Claims 8 through 11 (cancelled)